Bamboo centre of excellence

2630. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent Authority of Kerala had submitted two proposals *viz.,* establishment of Bamboo Centre of Excellence and artisan level training programme during September, 2006, related to Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra;

(b) if so, whether the above projects were approved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, action therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal has been received from the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra for "Setting up of a Bamboo Centre of Excellence" including artisan level training programme and the same has been sent to the Government of Kerala for comments.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Agriculture infrastructure and investment

2631. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy on agriculture infrastructure and investment;

(b) if so, the details to ensure that agriculture costs are covered under basic price support mechanism, trading of agriculture produce and availability of reliable and assured credit, State-wise, category-wise, as on today; and

(c) if so, the number of farmers who applied for credit and the number of farmers granted, agencies granted credit, the steps taken for trading of agriculture produce and financial support provided to States to support farmers for price support, credit provision and extension services for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Agriculture Zones

2632. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the suggestions given by eminent scientist Dr. Swaminathan on Special Agriculture Zones;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Government has recently received suggestions from Dr. Swaminathan on Special Agriculture Zones. However, at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government on Special Agriculture Zones.

Second Green Revolution

†2633. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to implement the scheme to give concrete shape to Second Green Revolution in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have been identified for the purpose of production of major foodgrains such as rice and wheat;

(c) whether it is a fact that 28 crore tonnes of foodgrains would be required by the year 2020, keeping in view the population growth as one of the factors responsible for the status of and decline in the productivity of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In view of the need for increase in production and productivity of major cereal crops and pulses to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains production, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Food Security Mission' has been approved to be launched from 2007-08. For the implementation of the Mission, districts have been identified having productivity of rice, wheat and pulses below the State average including districts from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. Besides, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has also been approved to be launched from 2007-08 in the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

(c) and (d) According to report of the XI Plan Working Group on Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections and Agricultural Statistics, 244 million tonnes of foodgrain would be required in the country by the year 2011-12. Further, a high level Committee on long term grain policy constituted by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, in their report, submitted in July, 2002, mentioned that the total food and feed demand for cereals in 2020 works out to 260 million tonnes.

Decreasing land holding

2634. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural operations in a small piece of land have become unviable once the land holding becomes too small;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.